

MS. RIGGS: Good morning. Thank you for giving me the time. And you're absolutely right, I've been sitting back there just listening. My name is Sarah Riggs. I'm with the Navajo Nation Tribe. And I thank you for giving me the time although it's towards the end here. A couple of gentlemen that are from the same area that I have been talking with, and I actually am newly into the political arena, so just getting myself exposed to a lot of what is going on and what is impacting our people as a nation in different tribes across the world. I am learning a lot from just sitting here listening, and I'm really thankful that I was able to come out to this convention this year. A few things I just wanted to -- and some of these things were mentioned, although I just wanted to voice them again because I think that everything that has been said is very, very important and has a critical impact on all of us in our lives. One is that we do have a need of more of the USDA presence on the Indian land, with the county levels so they are able to travel to the home-based lands, to the reservation.

And my understanding is that because of the lack of the fundings, they are often restricted. So because lack of the funds they are very limited. And, therefore, you're not getting the message across to the core reason for the purpose of the program. And the other thing is because of the our region -- or not our region, but our population with the Navajo Nation, we are so vast in our area as well across our Navajo reservation, that we feel that we need at least another fully staffed service center within the western portion of our reservation with the Navajo Nation land.

This can be easily justified by the population for Navajo Nation Tribe. And then also to continue to increase and improve the outreach activities by all agencies of the USDA on Indian lands, and I'm sure that applies to everyone throughout the country as well. And support of the Indian nation or support of the National Indian Conservation Districts to provide outreach to Indian lands as well. And then there is also a need to keep the price supports for agricultural products and so forth. And also another one is to fully staff NRCS extension offices on the Indian lands as well.

And also the next one is the Navajo Nation has -- I think, I'm not really sure, if Anthony's numbers were correct, but I'm thinking that it's probably more like closer 25 million in population with the Navajo Nation. And the Navajo Nation has over, I think, 25 million acres of which is rangeland and comprised of 80 to 90 percent of land, yet there is zero range costs is what I'm understanding, if that makes any sense. And the next one is all cost share on Indian land should be 90 percent. And this is something that seems to keep coming up and I keep hearing this, and so I just wanted to reiterate that as well. And then there's also a concern and need for more than five tribal scholars within the Navajo reservation. And, again, I want to thank you for letting me having this opportunity to reiterate some of these comments, although I know there have been some comments that were made relevant to all this, but I think the more voices, the stronger it is going to be. Thank you very much.